

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN-CR:JSULLIVAN:PW

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

ARA/CEN-G:DCLARE

EB/OA/AN:WCOBB (DRAFT)

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P 202027Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, FT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN SITUATION

REFERENCE: GUATEMALA 4748

1. SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER ON OCTOBER 19 PANAM REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED ONLY ORAL ASSURANCES THAT GOG WOULD APPROVE NEW SCHEDULES. THEY ALSO RAISED POSSIBLE GOG REFUSAL TO GRANT SATURDAY, GUATEMALA-NEW ORLEANS FLIGHT. END SUMMARY.
2. PANAM NY SENIOR DIRECTOR GOERGE BROWN AND WASHINGTON STAFF VICE PRESIDENT SETH PREECE CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER ON OCTOBER 19. THEY WERE PERTURBED THAT, ONLY NINE DAYS BEFORE NEW SCHEDULES DUE TO GO INTO EFFECT, THEY HAD RECEIVED ONLY ORAL INDICATIONS FROM MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT GOG WOULD GRANT APPROVAL. THEY WERE FEARFUL THAT GOG WOULD REQUEST LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN SCHEDULE, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS.
3. PANAM OFFICIALS REVIEWED OUTSTANDING SCHEDULE PROBLEMS:
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A) SAN PEDRO SULA RIGHTS--PANAM IS NOW RESIGNED TO

LOSS OF THIS ROUTE. IT NOTIFIED GOH ON OCTOBER 18 THAT SERVICE TO HONDURAS WOULD BE TERMINATING AT LEAST UNTIL NOVEMBER 30. (THEY ADMITTED THAT EFFORTS TO INVOLVE GOH IN CAMPAIGN TO KEEP SAN PEDRO ROUTE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED.)

B) SATURDAY NEW ORLEANS FLIGHT--ASSISTANT VICE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS BELTRANENA ADVISED LOWER-LEVEL PAN AM OFFICIAL (PORRAS) THAT GOG WOULD NOT PERMIT PANAM'S SATURDAY FLIGHT TO NEW ORLEANS. PANAM FEELS SERIOUS PRINCIPLE AT STAKE HERE IN THAT GOG WOULD BE RESTRICTING NOT MERELY CAPACITY BUT DAYS OF OPERATION. ALSO, PANAM FEARS THIS MAY BE ONLY A STEP TOWARD FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON NEW ORLEANS RUN AND EVENTUALLY ON MIAMI ROUTE AS WELL. SHOULD GOG FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS THREAT TO DISALLOW SATURDAY GUATEMALA-NEW ORLEANS ROUTE, BROWN STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT PANAM REQUEST 213 ACTION BY CAB TO BAR GUATEMALAN FLIGHTS TO NEW ORLEANS ON SATURDAY.

C) NY, WASHINGTON-GUATEMALA PROBLEM--CONDITION PLACED ON NEW YORK, WASHINGTON-GUATEMALA ROUTE APPROVAL MENTIONED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. PAN AM DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS CONDITION WILL BE PUSHED, AND DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE.

4. SHOULD PAN AM NOT HEAR FURTHER FROM GOG BEFORE OCT. 28, IT WOULD IMPLEMENT ITS NEW SCHEDULE AS PLANNED INCLUDING THE GUATEMALA-NEW ORLEANS FLIGHT ON SATURDAYS, BUT EXCLUDING GUATEMALA-SAN PEDRO SERVICE.

5. BROWN SAID PAN AM REPS IN GUATEMALA WERE IN FREQUENT DIRECT CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT J.A. PALMIERI WAS SYMPATHETIC AND MAKING REPRESENTATIONS IN PAN AM'S BEHALF. (FYI BROWN HASTENED TO ADD THAT JAP WAS NOT BEING PAID FOR HIS ASSISTANCE. END FYI) JAY WILSON HAS SOUGHT BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ARANA. BOWDLER SUGGESTED THAT WILSON TALK TO FONMIN ARENALES, WHO IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD PAN AM AND IS IN A POSITION TO BRING

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PAN AM'S CONCERNS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASSESS PAN AM'S EFFORTS TO DATE TO SECURE FINAL, WRITTEN GOG DETERMINATION ON NEW SCHEDULE. IF, IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, PAN AM HAS SUBSTANTIALLY EXHAUSTED ALL REASONABLE MEANS AVAILABLE TO IT TO

SECURE THIS DETERMINATION, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS. APPROACH SHOULD BE BASED ON PAN AM'S NEED FOR REASONABLE LEAD TIME PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW SCHEDULE FOR SUCH THINGS AS RESCHEDULING, USE OF EQUIPMENT, PRINTING NEW TIME-TABLES, ETC.

B) EMBASSY ALSO IS REQUESTED TO ASSESS GOG INTENTIONS REGARDING SATURDAY NEW ORLEANS RUN. IF CURTAILMENT OF THIS RUN IS BEING SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED, REQUEST YOU LET APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS KNOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT PAA MAY ASK FOR 213 ACTION IF THIS CURTAILMENT PUT INTO EFFECT.

C) PLEASE KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF OUTCOME OF WILSON-ARENALES DISCUSSIONS, IF HELD. RUSH

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